

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: THE CONSTANT CLAMOUR OF THE ORGANIZED UNEMPLOYED
REF: '77 NAPLES 482

1. SYMPTOMATIC OF THE ITALIAN ECONOMIC CRISIS AFFECTING NAPLES IN AN ACUTE MANNER ARE THE VIRTUAL DAILY PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS BY THE ORGANIZED UNEMPLOYED. THESE DEMONSTRATIONS HELD BEFORE CITY HALL, REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND THE PREFECTURE ARE GENERALLY PEACEFUL, BUT VIOLENCE IS AN EVER-PRESENT DANGER. THAT DANGER IS INCREASED BY FRAGMENTATION OF ORGANIZED UNEMPLOYED INTO VARIOUS GROUPS, EACH DEMANDING PRIORITY WHEN JOBS BECOME AVAILABLE, AND BY FAR LEFT POLITICIZATION OF SOME.

2. ON JAN. 31 TWO GROUPS OF SEVERAL HUNDRED DEMONSTRATORS EACH FORMED IN FRONT OF CITY HALL. THEY APPARENTLY EXCHANGED INSULTS. ONE GROUP (QUESTURA POLITICAL OFFICE TOLD CONSULATE THAT IT WAS LED BY LOTTA CONTINUA) BLOCKED THE STREET REFUSING TO HEED POLICE ENTREATIES TO MOVE ON. SCUFFLING OCCURRED BETWEEN DEMONSTRATORS THEMSELVES AND WITH POLICE ATTEMPTING TO CLEAR STREET. AS RALLY BROKE UP A FEW DEMONSTRATORS, UTILIZING THE EVER-PRESENT CROWBAR, ATTACKED AND DAMAGED TEN CITY BUSES. THERE WERE SEVERAL ARRESTS.

3. UNEMPLOYED RALLIED AGAIN FEBRUARY 1. DEMONSTRATORS IN NEARBY POZZUOLI OCCUPIED A SUPERMARKET FOR A TIME, WHILE PCI CITY COUN-
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CILLOR ANDREA GEREMICCA RECEIVED REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVERAL HUNDRED PROTESTORS AT CITY HALL. GEREMICCA IS SAID TO HAVE PROMISED JOBS SOON IN CONSTRUCTION AND PUBLIC WORKS AND TO HAVE LOOKED TOWARD EXPANDING EMPLOYMENT BY THE END OF 1978 AT ITALSIDER AND OTHER NAPLES AREA INDUSTRIAL FIRMS.

4. ONGOING AGITATION BY UNEMPLOYED IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED IN NAPLES, BUT IT IS A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS PUBLIC ORDER PROBLEM AND AN

ELEMENT OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY. THE PCI, WHICH HOPED TO INFLUENCE UNEMPLOYED FOLLOWING 1977 INCIDENTS AT CITY HALL (POLICE EJECTED DEMONSTRATORS ON ORDERS OF PCI MAYOR VALENZI - REFTEL) HAD LIMITED SUCCESS BUT THE FRAGMENTING GROUPS ARE LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. ACCORDING TO SOME PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE PCI GENERALLY AND CGIL TRADE UNION LEADER LAMA SPECIFICALLY ARE FAVORITE TARGETS OF VERBAL ATTACK FOR HAVING ABANDONED CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYED.

5. ALL RECOGNIZE THE CAUSE AS JUST. BUT PROVIDING JOBS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED IN NAPLES IS MONUMENTAL TASK. THE AREA'S LARGE STATE PARTICIPATION FIRMS - ALFASUD, SME (EX-UNIDAL) AND ITALSIDER ARE OPERATING DEEP IN THE RED AND MANY SMALLER FIRMS ARE IN PRECARIOUS CONDITIONS. NEW CONSTRUCTION AND PUBLIC WORKS REMAIN HOPE AND PROMISE YET TO BE REALIZED. THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECT OF REDUCING THE LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN A MEANINGFUL WAY OR OF AMELIORATING DISCONTENT. COLANTONIO.

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